

# Third Seasonal Outlook

October 20, 2021, by WeatherAg Chief Meteorologist Scott Borgioli

A major pattern change is underway! A few weak frontal bands from low pressure systems will pass through the valley through Saturday. Little to no rainfall is expected, totaling no more than a few hundredths to a tenth of an inch. A strong system will then pass through the region Sunday night through Monday, bringing rain. The rain may be heavy at times between 5:00am and 1:00pm Monday (total projected rainfall from this system alone is 0.50-1.00"). Valley winds can gust up to 15-20 mph at times through Thursday, 20-25 mph on Friday and Saturday, then 20-25 mph later Sunday through Monday. No frost or freeze concerns through October 31.

## Seasonal Outlook

**Temperatures:** Valley *Mean* Temperature Anomalies are expected to be +1 to -4 deg F of average (as a whole) through early-November. Some disparity exists from about mid-November through the end of November. Irregardless, at this time, *mean* temperatures are expected to be around +/- 3 deg F of average for mid to late November.

**Precipitation:** Obviously October will close out with above average rainfall, if the expected precipitation projections materialize with the Sun-Mon system. For November, data hints at near average to slightly below average rainfall. La Nina is now official. Historically, during weak or moderate strength La Nina's we see below average precipitation. A repeat of what was observed last year is not expected. Overall and based on preliminary data at this time, it's looking like precipitation may be around 60-80% of average by the time all is said and done around April 15, 2022 (based on current data).

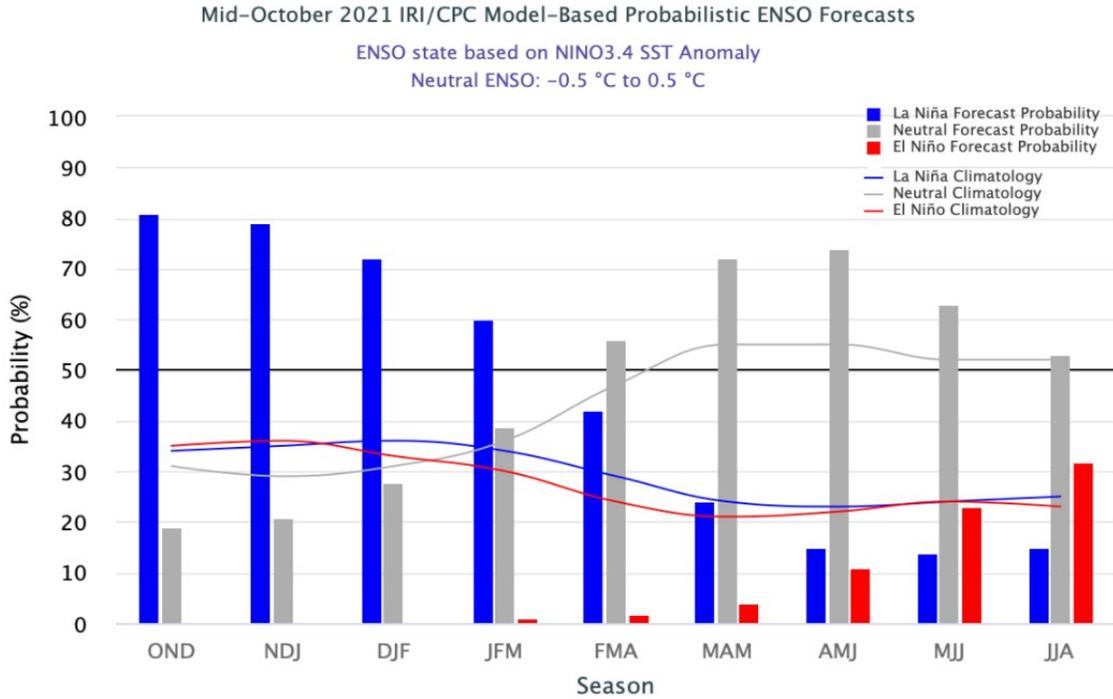
**Note:** It should be noted that, historically, seasonal temperature and precipitation predictions don't have a good track record. Many unpredictable factors that influence weather patterns will come into play as we move forward in time. Nonetheless, and to the contrary, there is some functional use of these outlooks as well. Probabilistic awareness of what may come is important for agricultural planning.

Other weather phenomena can kick into active phases and therefore influence California's precipitation. I'll be keeping close watch on the oscillations and teleconnections throughout winter and spring, looking for any signals of an "active" phase that could enhance our precipitation.

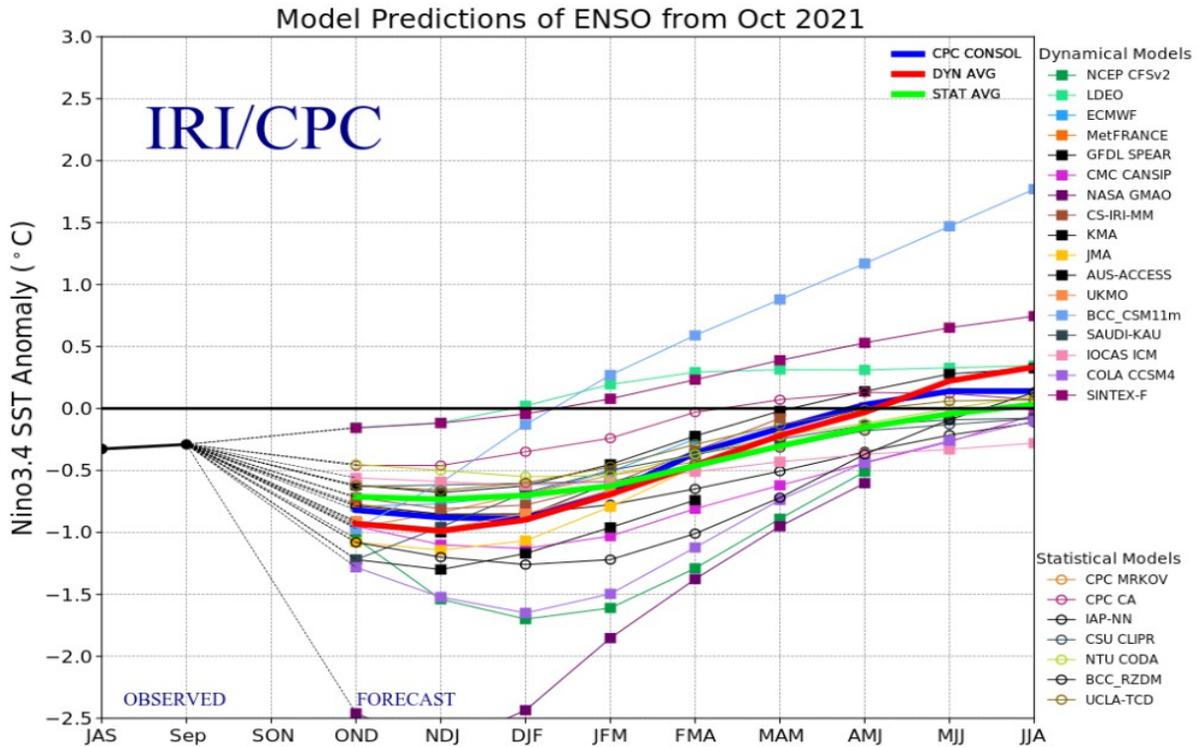
## La Nina is now official

A weak La Nina was declared a week ago due to below average Sea Surface Temperatures in key parts of the Equatorial Pacific having a "connection with the atmosphere." Data strongly hints that this La Nina episode will be weak, with just a few of the models venturing into the moderate strength category. A weak La Nina is favored at this time, but may change.

# Models predict La Nina continuing through much of winter 2021-22:



Little change since September of the predicted strength of La Nina – a “weak” episode is still favored (SST's -0.5 to -0.9 deg C):



Irregardless of what strength La Nina ultimately peaks at, historically, the three different categories of La Nina (weak, moderate, strong) have resulted in below average precipitation across Central California 61% of the time. However, the various La Nina strengths come more into play for areas from about Sacramento northward. Across NorCal for example, above average precipitation occurs more often than not during a "moderate" strength La Nina whereas a "weak" strength favors below average precipitation. It should be noted that there's no above/below normal temperature correlation across most of California during any strength of La Nina.